

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-35. (Canceled)

36. (New) A data stream transmission and reception method for receiving data from a transmitting end, in accordance with a reception contract, by plural receivers that have individual ID numbers and belong to the same group, said transmitting end assigning the same group ID number to the plural receivers, and managing the reception contract on the basis of the individual ID numbers or the group ID number, said method comprising:

notifying the transmitting end of the individual ID number possessed by a first receiver among the plural receivers that belong to the same group;

notifying the transmitting end of ID information that can identify a service with which the first receiver tries to make a reception contract;

notifying the transmitting end of the individual ID numbers possessed by one or plural receivers that belong to the same group as the first receiver, and that the one or plural receivers belong to the same group as the first receiver;

assigning the same group ID number to the first receiver and the first or plural receivers by the transmitting end that has received the notification; and

inputting the ID information of the service with which the first receiver makes a reception contract, to the first or plural receivers.

37. (New) A data stream transmission and reception method as defined in Claim 36, wherein said first individual ID number notification further comprises notifying the transmitting

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end of a telephone line number that is connected to the first receiver; and

in said additional individual ID number notification, the one or plural receivers belong to the same group as the first receiver, and are connected by the same telephone line as the first receiver;

said notifying the transmitting end of a telephone line number comprising:

notifying the transmitting end of the individual ID number and the group ID number possessed by at least the self receiver, from each receiver, through the telephone number line connected to the corresponding receiver at predetermined time intervals; and

collating individual ID numbers, group ID numbers, and telephone line numbers which have already been held by the transmitting end, with the individual ID numbers and the group ID number that are notified from the telephone line number at the predetermined time intervals, with respect to the plural receivers that belong to the same group.

38. (New) A data stream transmission and reception method as defined in Claim 36, wherein inputting the ID information of the service with which the first receiver makes a reception contract, which ID information is transmitted from the transmitting end.

39. (New) A data stream transmission and reception method as defined in Claim 37, further comprising sending a warning to the receiver side from the transmitting end, when the collating is not matched by the ID number collation.

40. (New) A data stream transmission and reception method as defined in Claim 36,

wherein said group ID number assigning multiplexes the group ID number onto a data stream together with video and audio to transmit the same to the receiver.

41. (New) A data stream transmission and reception method as defined in Claim 40, wherein said group ID number is stored in Conditional Access ID information of the data stream to transmit the same.

42. (New) A data stream transmission and reception method as defined in Claim 37, wherein the group ID number is transmitted to the receiver also by a transmission path different from the transmission path for the data stream.

43. (New) A data stream transmission and reception method for receiving data from a transmitting end, in accordance with a reception contract, by plural receivers that have individual ID numbers and belong to the same group, said transmitting end assigning the same group ID number to the plural receivers, and managing the reception contract on the basis of the individual ID numbers or the group ID number, said method comprising:

notifying the transmitting end of the individual ID number possessed by the first receiver, among the plural receivers that belong to the same group;

notifying the transmitting end of the individual ID numbers possessed by one or plural receivers that belong to the same group as the first receiver, and that the one or plural receivers belong to the same group as the first receiver;

assigning the same group ID number to the first receiver and the first or plural receivers

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by the transmitting end that has received the notification; and

notifying the transmitting end of information that identifies the viewed event as well as the individual ID numbers possessed by the aforementioned receivers and group ID number when an event is viewed by the plural receivers that belong to the same group and have the same group ID number.

44. (New) A data stream transmission and reception method as defined in Claim 43, wherein the information that identifies the event includes a program ID number that can identify each event.

45. (New) A data stream transmission and reception method as defined in Claim 43, wherein said group ID number assigning includes outputting information indicating which one of accounting modes, a receiver-unit accounting mode or a group-unit according mode, is adopted by each event.